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Gilbs Receive Citizens of the YearAward

Citizens of the Year, Charles and Ruth Gilb were the first married couple to recieve the award together.- *Photo by Terry Miller.*

By
Floretta Lauber

The Arcadia Chamber of Commerce's 88th annual installation of officers for 2002, on April 6, and the presentation of the "Citizens of the Year" to Charles and Ruth Gilb (the first time a husband and wife team has been honored), was a night to remember.

The Gilbs' years of service to Arcadia and Charles being the only four-time mayor, brought out the former police and fire chiefs, George Watts, former city manager, the Altrusa Club members, supporters and long-time friends, former and present state and city dignitaries and staff members, and their two daughters, Denice and Valerie.

The dining room at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Monrovia was filled to capacity, and parking was a long hike away.

The surprise of the evening was the announcement by Chamber Executive Director Beth Costanza that the Gilbs had been voted a "Lifetime Achievement Award," which resulted in a much-deserved standing ovation. Chris McClain, 2001 Citizen of the Year recipient, made the presentation.

Newly installed president of the Chamber, Dr. Peter Young, gave an erudite acceptance speech using his theme "Hand in Hand. He referred to people coming together after diversity, called on us to step out of our comfort zones and step up to the plate to serve. He challenged us to dedicate ourselves to excellence.

Steve Gutierrez is president-elect, Mikki Porretta, vice president, and Russ Garside, secretary-treasurer. Mayor Mickey Segal conducted installation ceremony. Polly Schmutz was chair of the very successful evening.